THE MOUNT

Mount St. Mary's College, Los Angeles ⚜ *Fall/Winter 2014*

Heroines' point of view

Storytellers weave tales of empowerment

MFA in Creative Writing ⚜ The Amazing Ride

from the president

Dear Friends,

I just finished reading this issue of the magazine and I am awestruck by the accomplishments of our students, faculty and staff.

This issue truly represents the creativity, passion and depth of our community. I am sure you will enjoy the story about Ben Cornell, '00 MPT, who retraced the 1928 Tour de France route, the highlight from our Women's Leadership Conference featuring Los Angeles chef Susan Feniger and the article from *MONEY* magazine naming Mount St. Mary's College the number one college in the nation that "adds the most value" for students.

We have much to celebrate as we continue to move forward in the implementation of our strategic plan.

In September, we formally launched our Center for Academic Innovation and Creativity, our MFA in Film and, as you will read in this issue, our MFA in Creative Writing. Leadership is the hallmark of a Mount education and our creative writing graduate students, as well as our faculty, are celebrating women and strong female characters in their novels, plays and poetry.

The next few months will bring more exciting news as we officially become Mount Saint Mary's University in January 2015. This new name reflects who we already are – an outstanding academic institution, a nationally recognized researcher and convener, and an inclusive community committed to excellence.

I hope you enjoy this issue as much as I did. Thank you for your continued dedication to the Mount.

With warmest regards,

Ann McElaney-Johnson
President

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Left, President Ann McElaney-Johnson in the kitchen where the first six Sisters of St. Joseph congregated. Right, the door to the CSJ house in Le Puy, France.

Humbled and moved

Mount St. Mary's President Ann McElaney-Johnson participated in June in a pilgrimage to Le Puy, France, that took travelers to the places that mark the beginning of the Sisters of St. Joseph history.

"The most profound moment for me was our visit to the kitchen where the first six sisters gathered to discern how they would serve the community. I knew the experience would be moving, but I was not prepared for the depth of emotion I felt standing in that sacred space knowing that this was where it all began," McElaney-Johnson says. "It was truly a gift to visit Le Puy. It deepened my understanding and love for the Sisters of St. Joseph. Being in that sacred space, I felt the essence of what I see all the time in the sisters that we know today."

The Mount will be offering similar pilgrimages through the CSJ Institute that the College plans to open next year. The first pilgrimage will coincide with the opening of the CSJ Institute in 2015-2016, which also coincides with Mount St. Mary's 90th anniversary. ⚜

MISSION STATEMENT

Mount St. Mary's College in Los Angeles offers a dynamic learning experience in the liberal arts and sciences to a diverse student body. As a Catholic college primarily for women, we are dedicated to providing a superior education enhanced by an emphasis on building leadership skills and fostering a spirit to serve others. Our measure of success is graduates who are committed to using their knowledge and skills to better themselves, their environments and the world.

Mount St. Mary's College is a diverse community committed to providing an environment that is free from discrimination on the basis of any characteristic protected by federal, state or local law, ordinance or regulation.

THE MOUNT

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EDITOR
Pia Abelgas Orense

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Debbie Ream

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Phillip Jordan

CLASS NOTES EDITOR
Barbara (Dummel) Brunner '63

DESIGN
San Luis Design

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS
Glenn Marzano, Nancee Lewis, Watchara Phomicinda, Carrie Rosema, MSMC Archives

PRINTING
Pace Marketing Communications

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To contact the editor or submit a story idea, write to Pia Abelgas Orense, assistant director of communications and marketing, Mount St. Mary's College, 10 Chester Place, Los Angeles, CA 90007; e-mail porense@msmc.la.edu; or call 213.477.2504. Class Notes news should be mailed to Alumnae Relations at the same address or e-mailed to alums@msmc.la.edu.

For Information
Alumnae Relations: 213.477.2767
Business Office: 310.954.4040
Chalon Campus: 310.954.4000
Doheny Campus: 213.477.2500
Financial Aid: 310.954.4190
Graduate Admission: 213.477.2800
Institutional Advancement: 213.477.2764
Undergraduate Admission: 310.954.4250
Weekend College: 213.477.2866

MONEY magazine's Best Colleges edition ranks the Mount as No. 1 in 'Value All-Stars' list

Mount St. Mary's received accolades in the national media this summer.

MONEY magazine released its Best Colleges survey results on July 28, and Mount St. Mary's stood at the top of the publication's "Value All-Stars" list. According to MONEY, Mount St. Mary's students are 23 percent more likely to graduate than others in their peer groups, and they out-earn their peers in the workforce by $13,930.

MONEY, which is published by Time, Inc., officially rated Mount St. Mary's as the No. 1 college in the United States on its list of "Colleges That Add the Most Value." The ranking takes into account the economic and academic profiles of incoming students, as well as the mix of majors and programs available at the school, and then calculates which schools help attendees succeed beyond what would be expected.

The Mount also rated No. 18 among MONEY's "25 Best Colleges That You Can Actually Get Into." Overall, Mount St. Mary's came in at No. 122 in the publication's comprehensive standings of all U.S. colleges and universities. The magazine studied roughly 1,500 four-year U.S. colleges, placing Mount St. Mary's in the top 10 percent nationally.

"This distinction is proof of the transformational power of a dynamic education led by a highly committed faculty and staff," says President Ann McElaney-Johnson. "We are extremely proud that more than 50 percent of our students are the first in their families to attend college. We are even prouder of all the incredible things that our alums are accomplishing once they leave the Mount."

Historic vote: Trustees approve name change to Mount Saint Mary's University

On May 22, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved changing the name of Mount St. Mary's College to Mount Saint Mary's University. The vote came after months of research, forums and surveys involving alums, faculty, staff, students and others in the Mount community.

The name change takes effect on Jan. 1, 2015.

For the past 20 years, the College has been classified as a university under the Carnegie classification system, and the new name more accurately reflects the range of offerings available at the Mount. President Ann McElaney-Johnson said, "As a community grounded in the charism of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, Mount Saint Mary's University will continue our unwavering commitment to providing a high-quality education to all of our students within a caring and supportive environment."

McElaney-Johnson joins Geena Davis, Amy Elaine Wakefield to discuss women's leadership at Los Angeles magazine event

Los Angeles magazine, the City of Los Angeles Commission on the Status of Women, and Mount St. Mary's College partnered to bring together a panel of influential women to examine women's leadership and gender roles in Los Angeles.

The public discussion took place on June 12 at Hollywood's Roosevelt Hotel, and featured Mount St. Mary's President Ann McElaney-Johnson, Academy Award®-winning actor Geena Davis, and First Lady of Los Angeles Amy Elaine Wakeland. The panel's dialogue was part of Los Angeles magazine's monthly Breakfast Conversation series. The magazine's editor in chief Mary Melton moderated the panel. To read Los Angeles' analysis of the conversation, visit www.lamag.com/citythink.

Photo: Phillip Jordan

A video recap and photo slideshow is available on Los Angeles magazine's website, lamag.com, under the LA Social category.

from the faculty

Nancy Ballesteros, instructor in the language and culture department, published "Why Teaching Pronunciation to Spanish L2 Learners Matters" in volume 2 of Voices, a graduate student publication of the Centro de los Estudios del Español de los Estados Unidos at UCLA.

Julia Chang, professor of physical therapy, attended the Third Research Symposium for the RE (Rasmussen's encephalitis) Children's Project held at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center in February. She is part of a UCLA RE scientific team that presented "Involvement of gamma delta T cells in Rasmussen's encephalitis."

Othello Childress, instructor in the Master of Science in Nursing program, had a student, Anita Piano '14, whose thesis abstract was accepted for the World Congress Vascular Access meeting in Berlin in June. This is the international organization for her specialty.

Jane Crawford, instructor of history and political science, and **Lew Dauber**, instructor of film, media and & communication, brought a new speakers' series to campus. "Living History" brings actors to schools to perform as famous people from history. In April, actor Dale Reynolds delivered a one-man performance as Thomas Jefferson, the nation's third president. The event was sponsored by the history and political science department and Pi Gamma Mu Social Science Honor Society.

Photos: Glenn Marzano

College holds commencement at historic L.A. landmark

More than 750 students made up the largest graduating class in Mount St. Mary's College history this year. On May 12, many of those students walked the stage at Los Angeles' historic Shrine Auditorium to receive their diplomas.

This year's commencement address was delivered by Maryann Cusimano Love, an author and foreign policy expert.

The ceremony included live music featuring a brass quintet and the College's own Mount Singers. The afternoon ended with the graduates transferring their cap tassels from the right to the left, signaling the start of their new relationship with the College as alums.

Earlier that day, graduates and their families joined the Mount community for Graduation Mass at St. Vincent's Church, next to the Doheny Campus. Faculty and staff lined up along Adams Boulevard cheering on the graduates as they proceeded from the campus to the church.

Among the events held to honor this year's graduating class were the first Raza Achievement Celebration, hosted by the Mount's Latinas Unidas; Weekend College's Graduation Reception; and the Graduate Division's Accolades ceremony.

To see more photos from commencement, visit our Facebook page at facebook.com/msmcla.

Photo: Phillip Jordan

College welcomes incoming students, parents to orientation sessions at both campuses

Mount St. Mary's welcomed nearly 500 incoming undergraduates during orientation sessions in July at the College's Chalon and Doheny campuses. Several dozen returning students served as orientation leaders on each campus, introducing the Mount's newest students to Athenian life.

In addition, the Mount hosted two separate parent orientation days this summer, helping to familiarize parents with the College. Mount St. Mary's also coordinates orientations for new transfer students, inter-program transfer students (Doheny to Chalon) and Pre-ADN (Associate Degree in Nursing) students. All programs are tailored for each student population to provide them with information critical to their academic and social success at the Mount.

Mount announces director for new Center for Academic Innovation and Creativity

Kimberly Middleton will lead Mount St. Mary's new Center for Academic Innovation and Creativity. Middleton comes from The College of Saint Rose in Albany, N.Y., where she was interim dean of the School of Arts and Humanities. She also previously served as the college's chair of the English department and director of the American Studies program. She holds a bachelor's degree in literature and language theory from the University of Redlands, and both a master's and a doctorate in English from the University of Notre Dame.

Through the Center for Academic Innovation and Creativity, faculty will explore and share effective teaching strategies, and engage in the scholarly examination of emerging and best practices in teaching and learning.

from the faculty

Julie Feldman-Abe, professor of education, and **Montserrat Reguant**, chair of the language & culture department, presented a poster at the NAFSA Association of International Educators annual conference in San Diego in May. The poster described the two-year faculty development model they co-directed as part of the Women in China grant project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Scott Freedman, assistant professor of physical therapy, published an article, "Short-Term Effects of Patellar Kinesio Taping on Pain and Hop Function in Patients With Patellofemoral Pain Syndrome," in Sports Health: A Multidisciplinary Approach in June.

Pam Haldeman, chair of the film, media & communications department, served as a film expert and answered audience questions for the Junior League of Los Angeles during their April screening of the documentary "Miss Representation."

Alan Lee, associate professor of physical therapy, was invited to present "Telemedicine and Telehealth in Physical Therapy" at the 49th annual conference of the Insurance Rehabilitation Study Group. The conference took place in Pasadena in April. Lee was also interviewed by the trade journal PT in Motion. The article, which will appear in the fall edition, will feature the Mount as an interprofessional program for physical therapy and nursing.

from the faculty

Vicky Loschuk, instructor of art, will be in a faculty exhibition at Los Angeles City College in the fall and another exhibition in spring 2015.

Debbie Lowe, chair of the physical therapy department, attended the combined sections meeting of the American Physical Therapy Association in Las Vegas in February. At the meeting, several DPT alums were recognized for earning specialty certification and recertification. DPT faculty Scott Freedman, assistant professor, and Derrick Sueki, instructor, were also recognized for their expertise. Part-time faculty JoAnne Smith presented research on "Motor Control of the Spine in Acute, Recurrent and Chronic LBP: Impairments, Adaptations and Clinical Applications."

Susan McDonnell, instructor of art, exhibited paintings at Sullivan Goss: An American Gallery, in Santa Barbara from June to August.

Nancy Pine, professor emerita of education, spoke in August at Claremont Graduate University's School of Educational Studies. She discussed her life's work comparing education in China and the United States. Her research now spans 20 years in both countries.

Photo: Phillip Jordan

Obama official meets with Mount students, faculty

A top official from President Barack Obama's administration visited Mount St. Mary's Doheny Campus on July 22, meeting with students and faculty to highlight the need for more women in federal service.

Katherine Archuleta, director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, serves as President Obama's workforce ambassador and focuses her efforts on creating a diverse, engaged and inclusive federal workforce.

At the Mount, Archuleta first met with members of the College's faculty and staff to discuss opportunities for national service, and offered advice on how to better connect students with those openings. One of the students in attendance was recent alum and U.S. Air Force veteran Megan Rodriguez '14, who was selected to shadow Archuleta for the day as part of the White House's "A Day in the Life" initiative.

Partnership with international foundation opens up learning opportunities for MSMC students

Mount St. Mary's commitment to providing global experiences for students continues to grow. This spring, the Mount officially became a university partner of The Foundation for Sustainable Development (FSD).

The FSD supports more than 300 community organizations around the globe, envisioning a world where all people have the opportunity and capacity to create sustainable improvements in their lives and communities.

Through the partnership, Mount students now have a new array of international internships and volunteer opportunities available in their pursuit of global learning experiences. Participation will be coordinated by Lia Roberts, advisor for the global politics major and faculty contact for the FSD partnership.

In 2015, Roberts plans to lead a group of students to South America on a "Politics and Water Access" project in an indigenous Quechua-speaking community in Bolivia.

Mount hosts graduate liberal studies symposium

The Chalon Campus hosted seven West Coast colleges and universities for the Graduate Liberal Studies West Coast Symposium on June 20-22. Students from graduate programs at Mount St. Mary's, Stanford University, Reed College, Simon Fraser University, Marylhurst University, and the University of Washington Tacoma presented papers on various topics.

Ethnic studies, creative advertising are the latest academic programs at the Mount

The Mount added two new minors this fall — ethnic studies and creative advertising — and each are offered as interdisciplinary studies.

Mount St. Mary's has consistently been recognized as one of the most diverse colleges in the United States; its new ethnic studies minor will further encourage on-campus discussions about issues that affect various communities of color. The program will be housed within the sociology department, and will include faculty who also teach in the College's programs on social work, history, and film, media & communications.

Ethnic studies courses will explore the historical, political and lived experiences of racialized communities such as African Americans, Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, Chicanas, Latinas and Native Americans. Students will be encouraged to examine colonialism, and race and ethnic identity at the points where markers such as class, gender and immigration status intersect.

The Mount's creative advertising minor will also utilize a broad, cross-departmental approach to provide students with the principles of marketing, as well as opportunities to explore the creative, psychological and business elements that drive professional advertising. The minor is designed to add value to students who plan to enter a variety of fields, such as marketing and advertising, graphic design, business, media communications and public relations.

Creative advertising faculty will come from departments that include art and graphic design; business administration; film, media & communications; and journalism & new media.

New dean to lead Weekend and Evening College

To accommodate the growing number of students enrolled in Weekend College, evening and online classes are now being offered in addition to the weekend sessions. Suzanne Williams will lead the WEC as its new dean.

Williams comes from North Carolina's Salem College, where she was the dean of the Martha H. Fleer Center for Adult Education. She received a master's in social work from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is a licensed clinical social worker and licensed marriage family therapist. Her areas of research and scholarship in adult education include adult student success, academic planning and advising, and increasing affordability/accessibility.

from the faculty

Devery Rodgers, director of Instructional Leadership and Clear Credential programs, facilitated two presentations in March. She presented at the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development national conference on "Teacher Leadership: Definitions from the Field" and at the California Council on Teacher Education conference on "Effective Uses of Social Media for Higher Education."

Michelle Samuel, instructor of psychology, presented "Rubric Scoring Parties at Tk20 Solutions," which creates integrated assessment, planning and reporting systems for educational institutions, at the 2014 Academic Resource Conference in Los Angeles in April.

Wanda Teays, chair of the philosophy department, is pleased that her co-edited volume, Global Bioethics & Human Rights: Contemporary Issues (Rowman & Littlefield), came out in March.
Top bioethicists from around the world contributed original essays. In February, she presented on Global Bioethics at the Association for Practical & Professional Ethics meeting, as part of a panel on the changing healthcare environment. In April, she chaired a panel on genetics and parenting at the APA and gave a talk on Massive Online Open Online Courses (MOOCs) to the Association of Informal Logic & Critical Thinking.

from the faculty

A team of Mount faculty and staff co-presented their research, "Innovative and Culturally Competent Career Development for First-Generation College Students," at the 2014 National Career Development Association Global Conference in June in Long Beach, Calif. The team included **Greg Travis**, assistant professor of psychology and director of graduate psychology; **Robin Bishop**, assistant professor of psychology; grad student Shelly Ling-Truong; Evelyn Oyulela-Kowalski, director of Student Success Center; Kim Terrill, director of community engagement; and Jocelyn Chong, director of the Professional and Academic Resource Center.

Shelly Tochluk, chair of the education department, presented "Tools Supporting the Creation of Inclusive School Communities" at the California NAME conference in January at California State University, Fullerton, and was a keynote speaker for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's "Diversity Week" festivities in March. In April, she spoke about issues of race, white racial identity and cross-race dialogue at Gustavus Adolphus College in Saint Peter, Minn.

Kim Tucker, instructor of art, exhibited "Beautiful Ugly Things" at the Garboushian Gallery in Beverly Hills in July.

For more faculty accomplishments, go to **www.msmc.la.edu/academics/provost**

College leadership welcomes new trustees and returning member

The board of trustees welcomed five new members and one returning member this year (pictured top to bottom).

Kathleen M. Duncan previously served on the board from 2003-2013. She is a director for California Science Center, the Children's Bureau of Southern California, the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Foundation, and the Doheny Eye Institute. She received a teaching credential from the Mount and taught elementary math and science for several years.

Maureen Archambault '79 is an alumna of the Mount's BSN program. She is a managing director at Marsh Risk and Insurance Services in Los Angeles and in 2013 was one of the Women to Watch in Insurance nominees. She holds an MBA from California Lutheran University.

Joseph Burschinger is the senior managing director and chief risk officer for Guggenheim Investments, the investment management and advisory business of Guggenheim Partners. He previously worked as executive vice president at Los Angeles-based asset manager TCW Group Inc., and senior manager at Arthur Andersen's Financial Services Business Consulting Group.

Kimberly Freeman is the assistant dean for diversity initiatives and community relations at UCLA Anderson School of Management. For 24 years, she worked in a variety of positions of increasing responsibility at Southern California Gas Company and Sempra Energy in human resources, engineering, regulatory affairs, marketing and external affairs.

Deborah E. Reed recently retired as the Head of the School at Polytechnic School in Pasadena after 12 years in that position. In her 40 years in education, she has served as Head of School at Seven Hills School in Cincinnati, Ohio, and as Head of Middle School at Harvard-Westlake School in Los Angeles.

Sister Sandra Williams, CSJ, '70, is a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet Los Angeles provincial leadership team. She previously worked as an elementary teacher in Catholic schools, and as director of religious education and Christian Life ministries at St. Joseph Parish in Santa Ana. She serves on the board of directors of Concern America, an international development and refugee aid organization, in Santa Ana.

Higher education journal publishes reflections from the Mount's first lay president, Jacqueline Powers Doud

The summer issue of the Journal of Catholic Higher Education led with an article written by the Mount's President Emerita Jacqueline Powers Doud. The article, "Personal Reflections on a First Lay Presidency," talks about the transition from religious to lay leadership in higher education, based on Doud's experience at the Mount as its first lay president from 2000 to 2011. The article was then reprinted in the summer newsletter of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities.

College named LEAD Initiative institution for second year

For the second year, the College has been named a Lead Initiative on Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement (LEAD) institution by NASPA.

The Lead Initiative comprises 73 NASPA member colleges and universities committed to encouraging and highlighting the work of student affairs in making civic learning and democratic engagement a part of every student's college education.

Photo: Watchara Phomicinda

Women's Leadership Conference speakers included, from left, award-winning journalist Tess Vigeland, KCRW general manager Jennifer Ferro, and celebrity chef Susan Feniger.

Experts share insights at Women's Leadership Conference

Celebrity Chef Susan Feniger, co-owner of Border Grill Restaurants, delivered the keynote address at this year's Women's Leadership Conference. More than 400 people, including Mount students, attended the event on Sept. 20. Successful women leaders shared their insights at several workshops and panels such as "Beyond the Boys Club: Achieving Career Success in Male-Dominated Fields" and "The Language of Leadership."

For a video recap and photo gallery of the leadership conference, go to **www.msmc.la.edu/wlc**

Film and nursing programs notch top honors from publications

In the same week that MONEY Magazine ranked Mount St. Mary's College the No. 1 "Value-Added College" in the United States, two of the Mount's academic programs also received nationwide acclaim.

The Hollywood Reporter, one of the premier insider publications covering the film industry, named Mount St. Mary's as one of "5 Schools to Watch" internationally for its "up-and-coming" BA and MFA film programs. In addition, Bright Hub, a publication that focuses on technology, science and education news, ranked the Mount No. 9 in its ranking of "10 Best Colleges for a Degree in Nursing."

The Hollywood Reporter noted the unique focus of the Mount's BA film program, with its unique focus on social justice and human interest storytelling. Its article also applauded the College's new MFA program for a structure that is geared toward working professionals.

Bright Hub, meanwhile, spotlighted the holistic Roy Adaptation Model used in the Mount's nursing program, which was pioneered by alum and former nursing chair Sister Callista Roy, CSJ, '63, and is widely used around the world.

Research partnerships to provide reports on status of women and girls for key cities

Following the success of the annual Report on the Status of Women and Girls in California®, the Mount has created partnerships with several cities to provide research on key issues affecting women and girls. The project for the Office of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and the Los Angeles City Commission on the Status of Women and Girls focuses on five areas: demographics, leadership, public safety, veterans, and education/economic development.

Led by former Mount Provost Eleanor Siebert, research is under way for Los Angeles County, and the cities of Pasadena and Santa Monica.

Kim Askew '15 MA shows two of the books in the "Twisted Lit" series, which she co-authors with friend Amy Helmes, at Skylight Books in Los Angeles, Calif. The independent bookstore hosted the book launch of the first title, "Tempestuous."

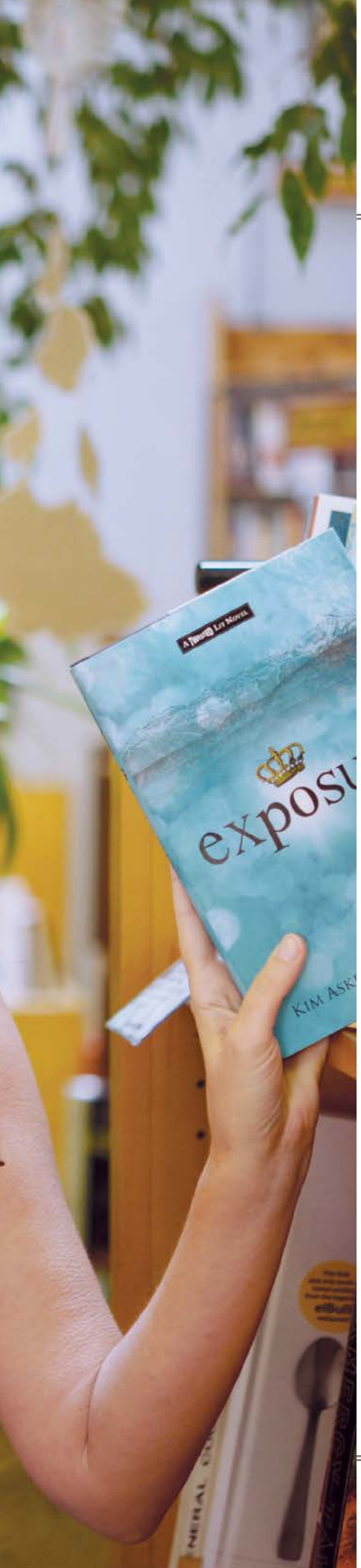


Photo: Carrie Rosema

Women's Voices — *21st Century Style*

The Mount storytellers weave tales of female empowerment reflective of their own personal journeys

By Pia Orense

A LOVESTRUCK MIRANDA, in the third act of Shakespeare's "The Tempest," tells a young man that she wants to be his wife. *"If not, I'll die your maid. To be your fellow / You may deny me, but I'll be your servant / Whether you will or no,"* she says, a profession of love so submissive and unconditional it's almost disconcerting when read with modern-day sensibilities.

So what happens when that character gets adapted for 21st-century young adult readers? This: *"If you call me princess again, I WILL scream."*

That headstrong "princess" would be Miranda Prospero, the character conjured up by Mount St. Mary's Humanities student Kim Askew '15 MA and her writing partner Amy Helmes for their debut novel "Tempestous" (Merit Press). In their "Twisted Lit" series for young adults, Shakespeare's plays are retold from the female protagonist's point of view and retooled so that those roles are no longer passive, secondary or subservient.

"We wanted strong female heroines and while Shakespeare does have some, a lot of the plays are about male characters. We thought, 'Let's take a female character and see how she would respond to the same situation,'" says Askew.

Jeanne (Gerrard) Cook '83 writes her "Alien Novels" series from her home in Phoenix, Ariz., but regularly travels to make author appearances, including a recent trip to Southern California for the San Diego Comic-Con in July.

The literary motif of female empowerment is key to several works recently authored by students and alums of the Mount. For these Mount storytellers, an emphasis on the female protagonist's journey to finding her own strength is partly a reflection of the author who brought the character to life.

The Woman Within

A POWERFUL WOMAN is definitely the principal character and the driving force behind the science fiction series "Alien Novels" (DAW). Author Jeanne (Gerrard) Cook '83 writes about Kitty, who, alongside aliens posing as humans, fights evil beings from taking over the universe.

Kitty is as quick with her quips and as spunky and smart as her creator. Cook, who writes the sci-fi series under the pen name Gini Koch, says her heroine inherited a lot of her own personal history and personality quirks. For example, Kitty's job as a marketing director echoes Cook's 25-year career as a marketing professional at several firms including IBM. Kitty becomes a full-time member of the alien diplomatic society and a mom at the same time, just as Cook juggled raising her child while working full time in corporate America and writing fiction on the side.

"I'm in every single character I write, especially the villains," says Arizona-based Cook, who graduated from the Mount with a bachelor's degree in international business. "I don't know how you can write without a piece of you in them."

Askew agrees, "All of our characters have something of ourselves. Or maybe it's something that we wish we had." Askew, who works as the content director at the Fashion Institute of Merchandise and Design in Los Angeles, says her experience growing up in a military family moving from one country to another shows up in the main character of the upcoming fourth book in the Twisted Lit series. Puck, a female interpretation of the fun-loving spirit in "A Midsummer Night's Dream," is a foster system survivor. "Puck is displaced, trying to find a home. Even though I had a strong family home, I didn't have a sense of place," says Askew.

Photo: Nancee Lewis

The Quest for Self

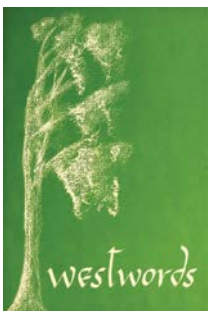
WHILE A WOMAN'S QUEST in literature "often follows a pattern similar to that of the journey of the male hero, there are some important twists," says Professor Millie Kidd, director of the graduate humanities program.

The search for identity is not always about escaping the restraints of society, which is typical of the male hero's journey; it may be about connecting with the self through relationships and through community. "Stories told from the female point of view help to reshape the way women are perceived by society, thereby tearing down the boundaries between individual and community," Kidd says.

For Allison Chaney '09 MS, her work reflects not just who she is, but also who she is not. In "I'm L.A. Woman," one of the poems included in her recently published book of poetry "Queen Me" (Poehemian Press), the first-person

A Literary Tradition

Mount students have always had a way with words. The first literary journal was published in 1927, and within a few years students started winning literary competitions.



Read more about the Mount's creative writing tradition in "from the archives," page 29.

voice rejects the stereotype of a woman living in Hollywood: "*I am not your re-invention / I am not a size zero / I am not your lesson or false shaman's shuffle.*"

"It's about false expectations of what you're supposed to be like as a woman, particularly one living in Los Angeles," she says. Chaney already holds a master's in education from the Mount and is working on her second graduate degree. She is currently in the humanities program at the College but will be switching to the new MFA in creative writing program in the fall.

There are other woman-centric poems in "Queen Me," including one about Dorothy of the "Wizard of Oz" (which was filmed in Culver City, Calif., where Chaney lives). Her two novels in progress are told from the female point of view, and a TV pilot she wrote for a class at the Mount centers around two sisters. "Everything is about empowering yourself and learning to believe in you as an individual," she says. "It's what matters."

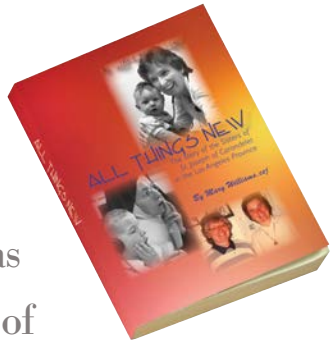
The woman's discovery of her own strength — physical, mental and spiritual — is an important theme in the works of Askew, Cook and Chaney. There may be some romantic entanglements along the way, but there is no echo of Miranda's unrestrained declaration of love in "The Tempest."

"Most young adult fiction is about the romantic happy ending," Askew says. "Amy and I wanted ours to be about empowerment, about how the character figures out who she is and what she wants to be. Maybe she ends up with the guy or maybe not, but I don't want the story to work out just because the character met the man of her dreams." ⚜

Watch Allison Chaney do a reading of "L.A. Woman" at **www.msmc.la.edu/magazine**

Photo: Watchara Phomicinda

All Things New



Sister Mary Williams, CSJ, has written the story of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet in the Los Angeles province. "All Things New" is now available to purchase through www.csjla.org. Sister Mary taught at the Mount for more than four decades, and served as the chair of the English department, provost, and trustee before retiring in 2003.

For a list of fiction published by alums in the past 10 years, go to www.msmc.la.edu/magazine.

Allison Chaney '09 MS lives in Culver City, Calif., home of the former MGM Studios. Her poem "I'm L.A. Woman" rejects the stereotype of women living in Hollywood.

Ana Thorne '06, '08 MA

Writing a *unique* story

The Mount's newest MFA gathers fresh voices

By Phillip Jordan

WITH THIS FALL'S LAUNCH of a new master of fine arts degree in creative writing, Mount St. Mary's is growing a community of talented, passionate writers whose stories reflect the diversity of the program's home city.

"Our students come from all walks of life," says MFA instructor Drew Brody. "One of my recent classes included a public relations executive, a teacher, a retired accountant, a former drill instructor, an actress, a single mother, an equestrian, and a combat veteran of the recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan."

Brody, who has taught screenwriting and playwriting at the Mount since 2009, says this range of voices is one of the Mount's biggest strengths. "It's particularly beneficial in creative writing classes. Classmates unearth details that a writer might otherwise have ignored or taken for granted, and they help put into relief the uniqueness of each writer's story."

Designed as a co-ed, weekend residency, the Mount's MFA in creative writing allows students to explore their voice through fiction, literary nonfiction, screenwriting, poetry, playwriting and publishing. MFA candidates have the chance to interact with community writing groups, participate in writers' retreats and volunteer with locally based social and learning organizations. Students also have an opportunity to become published authors in local publications, including the Mount's literary journal, Dry River Review.

Motivated writers from diverse personal and professional backgrounds are among the first group of students admitted to the MFA program.

Michelle Patnett has worked for more than a decade at John Tracy Clinic, a globally recognized nonprofit that helps young children overcome hearing loss. She's also pursuing a career as a novelist, and relishes the opportunity to workshop with fellow writers.

"Over the years, I found that I missed being in the classroom," Patnett says. "I took a few online writing classes to satisfy the creative itch, but it was a bit like writing in a vacuum. It's true that writing is a solitary craft, but it's vital to have that face-to-face experience of peer review and feedback."

Natalie Sanchez is an aspiring writer who makes her living as a sales associate. Sanchez graduated from the University of San Diego in 2013, where she majored in English and minored in political science. In addition to pursing her own projects, Sanchez hopes to one day teach creative writing.

"I find myself drawn not just to the art of writing, but also to the community of writers and professors that are willing to help you get where you're going," she says.

Sanchez says she also appreciates the array of courses offered through the program. Thanks to departmental collaborations, creative writing students are able to take elective courses in the Mount's MA in the humanities, and soon in the Mount's new MFA in film and television.

The program's expansive vision is due to the leadership of Ana Thorne '06, '08 MA, a two-time alum of the Mount who earned her bachelor's in English and her master's in humanities at the College. Thorne grew up in Ohio in a multicultural family — the daughter of an African-American father and a Mexican-American mother — and has extensive experience teaching English, literature, cultural studies, identity construction and civil rights history.

"Because we are in such a diverse community here — not only within Mount St. Mary's but in Los Angeles in general," Thorne says, "we want to be inclusive in who we draw to the program, and we want to broaden the canon a bit in terms of what writings we focus on in class."

Joan Eyles Johnson

Other creative writing faculty members include: Brody, an award-winning screenwriter and playwright; Joan Johnson, a 14-year veteran of the Mount, and playwright-in-residence at Studio One; Shonda Buchanan, a widely published memoirist, poet and PEN Center Emerging Voice fellow; Lisa Locascio, an editor, fiction writer and winner of the John Steinbeck Prize for Fiction; and Nathan Deuel, a novelist, reporter and a contributing editor at The Los Angeles Review of Books.

Mount St. Mary's MFA in creative writing was born out of a concentration in the College's MA in humanities. All graduate programs are based on the Mount's historic Doheny Campus, just west of downtown Los Angeles. ⚜

Playing with words

Playwright speaks to the power of creative writing

By Pia Orense

GROWING UP IN A CONVENT where 40 nuns served as her surrogate mother, playwright and Mount St. Mary's instructor Joan Eyles Johnson spent her formative years surrounded by strong women. The most influential was her fifth-grade English teacher Sister Anne Mary, a tall, athletic, "real tomboy kind of nun." One day during class, Sister Anne Mary started crying in the middle of reading a poem.

"And I thought, what on earth are those words that could make Sister Anne Mary cry?" Johnson remembers to this day. The poem was "The Blessed Damozel" by English poet Dante Gabriel Rossetti.

"After that, I went to the library and read everything I could about Rossetti," she says, "mainly because I wanted that kind of power — to make a strong person cry, to melt someone I thought was pretty hard. I wanted to have that effect on someone else. I saw the power in poetry without knowing what it was."

That day with Sister Anne Mary and Rossetti set in motion a career in creative writing. Since then, Johnson has had her own poetry and short stories published in acclaimed literary journals and magazines. Her award-winning plays have been performed off-Broadway, on radio through NPR, and in theaters across the nation. Two books — one a collection of short stories, the other a book of poetry — are under consideration for printing with a publishing house.

Johnson has shared her passion for the written word in English and creative writing courses at the Mount's Weekend College and Humanities grad programs since 2000. This year, she is leading the playwriting and poetry classes in the new MFA in Creative Writing program at the Mount.

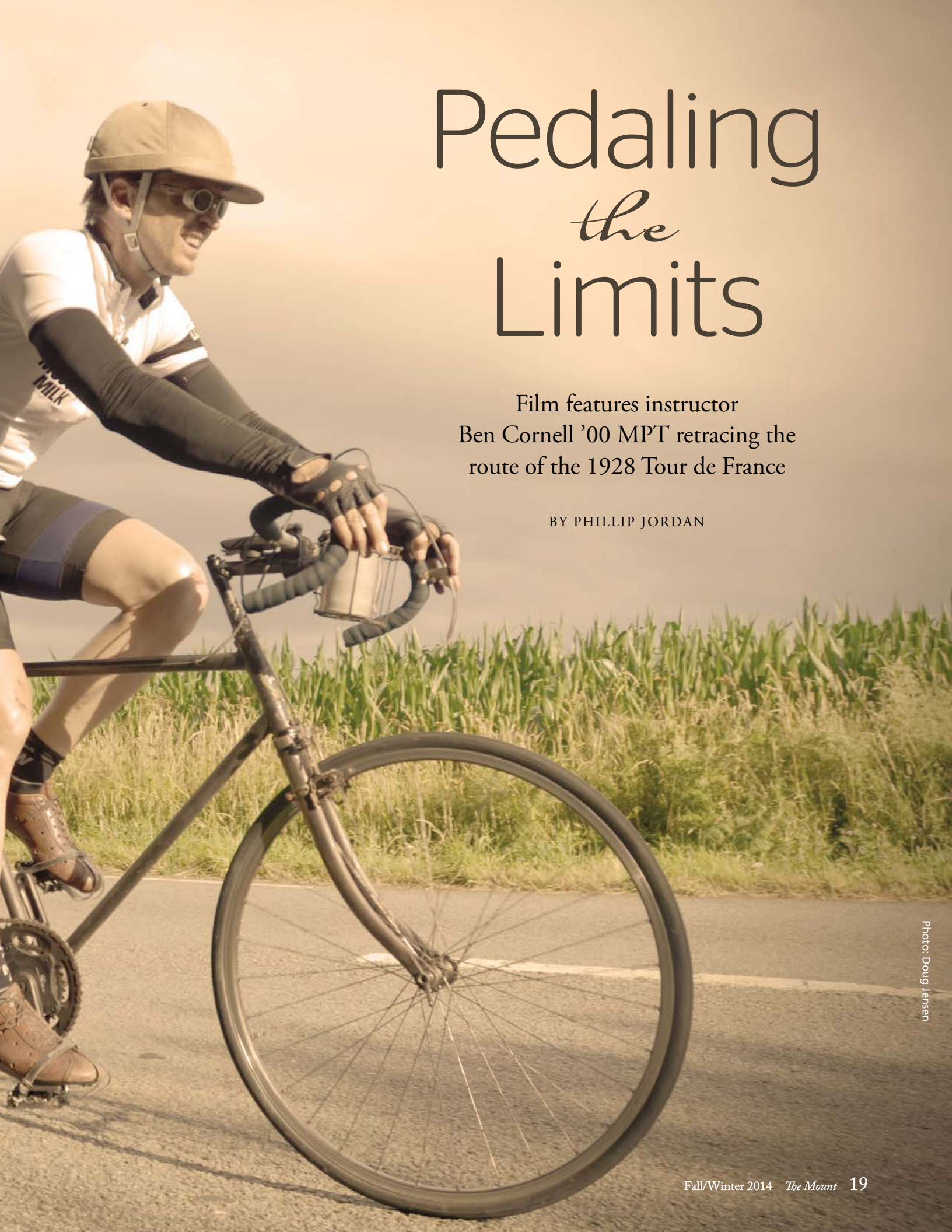
Teaching has given her the power to affect someone as much as Sister Anne Mary affected her.

"I can make my students cry just by reading them good literature," she says. Last year, she conducted a one-unit Weekend College course on the Herman Melville classic Moby Dick, using the harbor of San Pedro, Calif., as her classroom. "The last three chapters I made the students read out loud together. Imagine 31 students standing on stage by the ocean. When they got to the last chapter they were in tears."

She tells her students that if they want to move their readers, they have to be moved by their own words as well. "Feelings must accompany the writing," she says, but she cautions against manufacturing emotions for the sake of the process. "Faking it makes for false writing. Work at getting in touch with your *innermost feelings*."

She makes it clear though, that writing — and teaching the craft of writing — is not about controlling the reader's emotions. Whether it's a poem, a play, or a novel, creative writing "is really is about softening people's hearts," Johnson says. "When it's done right, when it's taught properly, you can melt ice." ⚜

MSMC instructor Ben Cornell '00 MPT, left, rides through the French countryside with friend Phil Keoghan, producer of "The Amazing Race." The duo's journey by bike is chronicled in a new documentary titled "Le Ride."



Pedaling *the* Limits

Film features instructor Ben Cornell ’00 MPT retracing the route of the 1928 Tour de France

BY PHILLIP JORDAN

Photo: Doug Jensen

White line after white line slipped beneath Ben Cornell's 35-pound bicycle, illuminated only by the beam of his head lamp. His legs boiled, and darkness cloaked the French Pyrenees, which — up until nightfall at least — had provided such inspiration during the day's 22-hour, 205-mile ride.

Now, nearing midnight, Cornell approached the summit of one of the most storied peaks in Tour de France history, the *Col du Tourmalet*. Most mountaintops in the Tour are ranked according to difficulty, from a 4 on up to a 1. The *Col du Tourmalet* is among the rare summits with a different distinction: *hors catégorie*.

Beyond category.

This wasn't a one-day ride, either. Cornell, a Mount St. Mary's alum and instructor in the Mount's physical therapy program, was nine days into a 22-stage journey to replicate the 1928 Tour de France, the world's most challenging biking competition. The ride was the brainchild of Cornell's friend riding alongside him, Phil Keoghan, an adventure seeker and TV personality best known as the host and producer of "The Amazing Race."

To watch the "Le Ride" trailer and to see more photos, visit **msmc.la.edu/magazine**. Learn more about "Le Ride" at **philkeoghanleride.com**.

Four years earlier, in 2009, Cornell had joined Keoghan for a ride across America to raise money for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. The effort netted more than $1 million, and resulted in a documentary, "The Ride," that featured Cornell as Keoghan's cycling sidekick.

By 2013, Keoghan was itching for another two-wheeled challenge. His pitch to Cornell: *Let's re-trace the 1928 Tour de France, all 3,400 miles, following the same route on actual 1928 1-speed bicycles! And we'll film it again: "Le Ride" this time!*

But Cornell wasn't thinking about historical accuracy on the night he and Keoghan pushed toward the top of the *Col du Tourmalet.* The fear of falling asleep was Cornell's only coherent thought. He rode standing up in his pedals to stay awake. His right shoe's sole already wearing thin, evidence of how often Cornell used the foot as a "Flintstone brake" — insurance for the bike's 85-year-old braking system.

At last, the pair of cyclists crested the 6,939-foot summit. It was after midnight. The *Col du Tourmalet* was behind them. The biking would get easier now. Just four more hours until they could stop and sleep. Four hours and two more Category 1 summits to climb.

Dreams take root

Cornell grew up competing in track and cross-country in California's Central Valley. But he didn't get into extreme sporting until after he graduated from the Mount in 2000.

It was during Cornell's residency at Torrance HealthCare Partners — a medical group where he still works today — that one of his mentors mentioned training for an Ironman Triathlon. "I told him, 'I've always wanted to do that,'" Cornell recalls. "He asked me, 'Why haven't you?' I said, 'Because I have no idea how to swim.'"

But the dream took root. Cornell began swimming. He went for longer bike rides. He eventually worked up to a half-Ironman. Then his first full Ironman Triathlon, in Florida. Then, three more. After he married his wife, Julie Guthrie, also a physical therapy instructor at the Mount, the two spent their honeymoon in Australia — completing an Ironman Triathlon together.

Guthrie's equal zeal for cycling eventually opened the doors for Cornell's greatest biking adventures. Guthrie had become cycling friends with Keoghan's wife, and the two women decided to invite their husbands on a ride.

"I'd never watched 'The Amazing Race' and I didn't know who Phil was," Cornell says.

At the top of Col d' Aubisque.

Journey's end in the heart of Paris.

Riding through the French Pyrenees.

Photos: Doug Jensen

"I'm pretty shy and I didn't want to ride for hours next to some big TV guy. But my wife knew something I didn't. She reminds me her quiet husband was just 'yap, yap, yap' from the moment I met Phil. We were kindred spirits with 13-year-olds' sense of humor."

Two of the most memorable scenes in "The Ride" capture the breadth of the friends' relationship. In one, the two men, decompressing after one of the most difficult days of the ride, simply can't stop giggling once they collapse in their hotel room. On the morning when Cornell has to temporarily leave the road to return to work in Los Angeles, he's unable to muster any words between his tears.

"I think that's why the film hit on a lot of levels for people," Cornell says. "People would tell me, 'Oh, I'm not into biking.' But it's not really a film about cycling. It's about relationships. Between friends. Between a son and his father (Keoghan's dad was the support crew driver). Meeting MS survivors. The bikes just happen to be the vessels that let us tell those stories."

Getting uncomfortable

The inspiration for "Le Ride," meanwhile, stems from Keoghan's roots as a native New Zealander. In 1928, the country's most accomplished cyclist, Harry Watson, raced as part of the first English-speaking team in the Tour de France. The 1928 Tour is still remembered as one of the most grueling in the competition's history, an unnerving, mountainous route that outlined the country's borders. There were 162 racers that started the competition; only 41 finished.

"It was tough, no question," Cornell says, "but my biggest takeaway from the whole experience is that the limits we set for ourselves are often far less than what we're capable of."

It's a belief he talks about as a physical therapist, and a mantra he repeats to his students at the Mount. "I don't expect my patients to necessarily do what I'm doing," he says. "But sometimes it's not the physical that limits us. It's the mental barriers that we set for ourselves. You learn a lot about yourself when you let yourself get a little uncomfortable."

It's a lesson Cornell has learned. He might feel at home on the road, pedaling 150 miles a day. But stepping back into a Mount St. Mary's classroom as a teacher for the first time? "That was a different kind of scary," he says. "I'm not a big public speaker. And until I went through the Mount as a grad student, I really wasn't a confident person."

He credits Cindy Moore, the former chair of physical therapy at Mount St. Mary's, with instilling a new sense of belief in himself. Moore, who passed away in 2011, told Cornell that she saw a teacher in him. She started him off as a lab assistant in 2003, then as a co-teacher of a "Therapeutic Modalities" class. Within a few years, he was leading orthopedics classes on his own. By 2012, that year's graduating cohort in the DPT program selected Cornell to be the faculty speaker at their graduation celebration.

"My progression was all because of the Mount and, more specifically, because of Cindy Moore," he says. "She believed in me. She had faith in me long before I had that much faith in myself. That confidence has carried over to everything I do."

That includes biking across America, riding through France and watching himself on the big screen for the second time in five years. Phil Keoghan's cycling sequel, "Le Ride," once more co-stars Ben Cornell. Slated for release in March 2015, proceeds will again go to the MS Society.

"I'm excited to see it," Cornell says. "Even if this movie was never released and had just turned into a summer vacation video, the cool thing for me is that I have documentation of this incredible experience. One day when she's grown up, my daughter can watch it, and think about what's possible. And she'll actually believe that her dad did something like this!" ⚜

Sisters of St Joseph of Carondelet

Mount St. Mary's College acknowledges the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet (CSJ) for their steadfast support of the Report on the Status of Women and Girls in California®. The Report highlights key issues impacting the lives of California's 19 million women and girls. It is part of the Mount's efforts to continue the work started by the CSJs and to preserve the legacy of the College's founders.

The release of the 2015 Report will be held on March 19, 2015.

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Writings on the Wall

Donors tell the story behind their messages on the Wall of Inspiration

To you who come before; to you who are present today; and to you who are yet to come! Blessings, all.

A living wall needs to honor not just today's students or benefactors. It needs to honor the folks, whether they be students, professors or those employed at the Mount, who have helped establish the Mount as it has come to be today. Those to come will be inheriting this rich history of education, donation and service. The Mount was my first home away from home. I was able to make lasting friendships that continue to this day.

— Dianne (Plou) Schautschick '65

Dream & romanticize, but don't misplace reality.

My connection to Mount St. Mary's was cultivated early on as a freshman in the traditional undergraduate program and has continued throughout the years. I'm currently working on my MFT and will graduate in May 2015. The faculty and staff here helped me develop a strong sense of community and self-awareness. The reason for my quote on the wall is that I think we should all dream and never stop working to achieve those dreams. I do believe we all must be cognizant of the hard work achieving our dreams will require, and that hard would should not be dismissed. I hope my small donation helps the Mount continue to provide this wonderful environment for students, staff and faculty, as well as foster a continued love for education at our university.

— Natasha Thrall '09

Dianne (Plou) Schautschick '65 continues to be involved with the College. She volunteers at the College Archives every week, helping process and file historic documents and photos.

In loving memory of husband Lee Owens, brother Alex Orth

I had to include my brother because if it hadn't been for him, I would not have gone to the Mount. He was four years older than me. After high school, he went right into the army. He came back the year I graduated from high school, and he enrolled at Loyola Marymount on the GI Bill. I had applied to go to UC Berkeley, but he wanted me to go to the Mount. He had gone to a dance there and he thought it was the neatest place. He went to the campus and talked somebody into accepting me. So we were freshmen together – him at Loyola and me at the Mount. With the four-year age difference, we didn't really interact that much growing up. But once we got to College, we did more together, like double dating. Years later, at his wedding (Alex married a Mount alum, Betty Parker), I met his best friend, Lee. And I ended up marrying him.

— Erika (Orth) Owens '50

For more information on how you can support the Mount and add a tile to the Wall of Inspiration, e-mail Maria Solano, director of annual giving, at msolano@msmc.la.edu or call 213.477.2536.

With Thanks

The Ahmanson Foundation – Provided $75,000 to support expendable scholarships at the Mount.
Joseph Drown Foundation – Provided $50,000 to support the Student Ambassador program.
Bill Hannon Foundation – Provided $75,000 to support expendable scholarships.

class notes

'74

Henry A. Alviani has been appointed associate professor of music and director of choral studies at Kutztown University of Pennsylvania. The appointment follows his 11 years as director of choral and vocal music studies at Clarion University of Pennsylvania.

Margaret Avila celebrated her 44th anniversary as a registered nurse and nurse practitioner by completing her doctoral degree at the University of San Diego in 2014. Her dissertation was titled, "Social Justice & Public Health Nursing in California." She continues to practice as a nurse practitioner serving the underserved and uninsured in downtown Los Angeles while teaching in the Accelerated BSN program at the Mount. She was recently elected Los Angeles chapter president for the National Association of Hispanic Nurses.

'82

Lisa (Kimble) Edmonston, Emmy Award-winning broadcast journalist, has been named producer and contributor of The Bakersfield Californian's weekly digital lifestyle show, "Live Well." Edmonston also writes monthly columns for Bakersfield Life Magazine and is the author of the social graces blog, "It Manners a Lot."

'89

Monica (Espinoza) Little is a graduate of the nursing program and has been living in Massachusetts since 1996. Last summer, she attended the Roy Adaptation Model conference held at Boston College. She was able to chat with Sister Calista Roy, CSJ, who presented at the conference. Her niece, Sarah Espinoza, is now a freshman at the Mount.

Photo: Phillip Jordan

Raise a glass!

Alums and friends who attended the "Taste at the Mount" event on June 7 raised nearly $10,000 for the alum-founded Emergency Book Fund. All proceeds from the event will help current Mount students pay for their textbooks.

'96

Kristina (Dam) Chadwick was recently promoted to associate director in toxicology and to therapeutic area head in metabolic diseases and fibrosis for drug safety evaluation at Bristol-Myers Squibb Company.

'97

Krisianna (Trager-Straw) Bock was honored as a Rising Star by the San Fernando Valley Business Journal at its Women in Business Awards in April.

'01

Kathleen (Kavanaugh) Murdy was honored by the Catholic Press Association, finishing in third place in novels for her book "Song of the Dove," a story of Mary of Nazareth, published by ACTA Publications. She earned a master's in religious studies from Mount St. Mary's in 2000.

'02

Natalia Mattan-Hung now works as a patent agent for a law firm in the area of life science/biotechnology.

'05

Nancy Lorenz-Vega published a young adult novel, "The Strength of Ballerinas," in September with Cedar Fort Publishing & Media.

'06

Erica Huntzinger published her first children's book, "Cosmo Finds His Forever Home," in May with Tate Publishing.

'07

Claudia Preza joined the Mount's institutional advancement team as a gift planning officer, engaging alums around our alma mater's mission. She graduated from the Weekend College in 2007 with a bachelor's degree

in English. She received a master's degree in international studies from Claremont Graduate University. She has a passion for philanthropy and issues affecting Latina/o communities in Los Angeles and internationally.

'10

Nicole Que was honored this year by Nurse.com with a California region Rising Star Award. The award honors an RN who has been working in a professional nursing setting for five years or less. Awardees demonstrate strong nursing knowledge and clinical leadership skills and exceed role expectations in patient care and professional endeavors.

'13

Amanda Bernard is now a recruiter and human resources associate at IMCA Capital, where she in charge of the recruitment process for the 30-person finance company in Santa Monica. She previously worked as a talent acquisition associate for investment firm Capital Group.

marriages

'07 Justine Ott to Justin Vandenbrink
'08 Laura Morreale to Jack DeZell
'09 Christina Quezada to Raul Hernandez
'10 Esther Granados to Royer Ramos
'11 Blanca Ibarra to Mitchell Gallardo
'13 Mayra Gale Mara to Paul Gavini

births & adoptions

The Alumnae Association extends congratulations to the following alums and their spouses on their new additions:

'01 Elyssa Anabel to Jessica (Rojas) Cuevas and Luciano Cuevas '12, second child
'01 Alejandro Milan Rivera-Martinez to Veronica Martinez, 1st child
'02 Michael Allen Barber to Michelle Nicole King, 1st child
'02 Lourdes Barrera to Ileana Silva-Barrera, 1st child
'03 Peyton Dorothy Beamish to Ellisa (Pavlish) Beamish, 1st child
'03 Miabella Heart Castellon to Vanessa (Sevilla) Castellon, 3rd child
'03 Brandon Segismundo Horsewood to Mariliese (Segismundo) Horsewood, 2nd child
'03 Elena Sofia to Blanca (Arriola) Nazareth, 1st child
'05 Julian Raul Ocampo to Sara Fontan-Ocampo, 2nd child
'06 Arley Linnette Lagos to Kenia (Martinez) Villalta, 2nd child
'07 Saxon Danielle Vandenbrink to Justine (Ott) Vandenbrink, 1st child

in memoriam

Your prayers are requested for the repose of the souls of:

'44 Beatrice (Teresi) Stathatos
'46 Genevieve (Escallier) Baillif
'49 Mildred (Lerch) Meadows
'51 sister of Angela (MacDonald) Kay
'52 husband of Beverly (Halpin) Carrigan
'53 husband of Therese (Martin) Blunt
'55 Nancy (Wiggins) Skolnick
'56 Rosalie (Klien) Streicher
'57 Kathleen (Bergin) Hill
'58 husband of Ann (Smith) Sandler
'60 husband of Cindy (Power) Wallace
'61 Peggy (Beauclair) Hurdle
'61 Paul Salamunovich
'64 sister of Mary Alice (Alston) Stevenson
'65 mother of Lawreen (Crain) Gallegher
'65 husband of Nancy (Sullivan) Taylor
'66 brother of Betsy (Dickerson) Azariah
'66 brother of Emily (Deutsch) Keller
'66 uncle and cousin of Tina (Von der Ahe) Brown
'68 husband of Sallye (Donovan) Clifford
'70 mother of Linda (Leggett) Oldenkamp
'71 Kathleen Maloney
'76 Theresa (Bingham) Grossklaus
'76 Kathleen Snider
'79 sister of Marilyn (Armstrong) Belanic
'82 father of Susan (Haselton) Haas
'82 Barbara Lerma
'83 husband of Adrienne Allison
'87 mother of Virginia Stolarz-Bauer
'94 brother of Karen Anthony
'96 father-in-law of Renee Rouzan-Kay
'96 Wanda (Kelley) Solomon
'98 brother and father of Sheena (Baillie) Ricchio
'03 brother of Cherisse Bradley
'05 mother of Sara Fonta-Ocampo
'05 brother of Nicole (Rollins) Myjack
'05 brother of Nancy Valdivia-Antoniou
'07 Evan McGrath husband of Terri Kraft McGrath '95, son of Gerry (Biggs) McGrath '51, brother of Nora McGrath Warren '82
'10 mother of Estrella Ramirez
'10 Jennifer Solorio
'10 grandmother of Leyda Leon
'13 grandfather of Tiana Bradley
'14 mother of Marquis Gardner

advanced degrees

The Alumnae Association congratulates the following alums for their successful pursuit of intellectual achievement:

'88 Janine Arbelaez, PsyD in adult psychoanalysis, Psychoanalytic Institute of California, 2013
'05 Rebecca Levin, MA in special education, California State University, Northridge, 2014
'08 Ashleigh Morton, certificate in diagnostic medical sonography, Loma Linda University, 2014
'12 Brittney (Saldana) Plascencia, MS in college counseling and student development, Azusa Pacific University, 2014
'12 Jeanne Ngo, MS in bioscience, Keck University, 2014

2014 Outstanding Alums Award Winners

Get to know this year's recipients honored at Homecoming

Betsy (Dickerson) Azariah '66

Service to the College

When Betsy Azariah '66 was a student at the Mount, she served as president of the student government and was a member of the Model United Nation team. Her list of involvements at the College has grown since then, from leading the Alum Board as president to serving as a regent, Doheny Docent and Heritage Society member. She created an expendable scholarship for new generations of students. She makes calls each year welcoming incoming first-year students, participates in the President's Day of Service and Homecoming committees, and has attended every alum trip that has been offered.

After graduating with a bachelor's degree in history, Azariah earned her master's in guidance counseling from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. She went on to become a regional administrator for the Department of Children and Family Services.

Q: What is your favorite memory of your time at the Mount?

A: I remember when I was a freshman at the Mount there was the Bel Air fire. It burned down the sisters' convent and we had to evacuate. When we got back to the dorm, there was water in the halls and we had to clean it up ourselves. Back then, we weren't allowed to chew gum and as I was mopping, I was chewing gum. Sr. Rose de Lima saw me but she said, "You get a break this time!" It was during finals week and I had a final that I couldn't go to and I was glad because I hadn't studied for it!

Q: Why do you choose to volunteer?

A: I have always been interested in public service and giving back. I love to work with children and their healthy development, and that's been a theme all throughout my working life and private life. I volunteer at my church as an usher, deacon and as a Sunday school teacher. I'm on the Mount's alum board. And I also volunteer at the House of Ruth, a Los Angeles shelter for battered and homeless women located in East L.A. I have been helping them for 13 years.

Q: Which of your accomplishments are you most proud of?

A: Personally, I am most proud of raising a child, and being married to a wonderful husband for 25 years. The most satisfaction professionally is rising from a social worker to a regional administrator. I'm also proud of my connection with the Mount. I am passionate about the power of women, which is why I went to Mount St. Mary's.

Lisa Gigliotti '84

Professional Achievement

Lisa Gigliotti '84 thought her calling was to become a doctor and go on medical missions. So she majored in biology at the Mount, led the Student Health Advocate Club, organized health fairs, and got ready to apply for medical school. Then she was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis. She was so incapacitated — unable to walk and suffering from severe pain — that medical school was no longer an option.

Instead, Gigliotti went to law school in Detroit, Mich. Her experience dealing with chronic pain helped her with her first few jobs after getting her juris doctor from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law: as a disability rights advocate and as a human services policy coordinator in the Michigan governor's office.

Today, she is the division director and administrative law judge in the Michigan Administrative Hearing System. She has served as vice president of the Diocese of Lansing Catholic Lawyers Guild and has written a book about end-of-life care, "Corraggio! Lessons for Living from an Italian Grandmother."

Q: Why did you decide to study biology?

A: From a very young age, I felt compelled to be a doctor and to do missionary work.

Q: You eventually you went into law. Why did you decide to go that route?

A: Right before applying to medical school, I was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis. I was not able to walk at the time. I wasn't able to enter into medical school where I thought I could have an impact on healthcare policy.

Q: Do you have a favorite memory from your time at the Mount?

A: My favorite time was probably doing music ministry, singing in our small ensemble. These were really fun on Sunday nights and it was such a great group of people. Two of the sisters would join us and it was great.

Q: Did you have a mentor or role model during your time at the Mount?
A: I had my mom, a couple friends who were fantastic, and then Sister Annette Bower, who was my inspiration for a career in medicine. Sister Teresa P. inspired me to sing. Sister Marilyn was especially an inspiration because she lso had the same condition, rheumatoid arthritis, and she never complained.

Nzinga (Harris) Graham '04

Rising Star Award

After graduating with a bachelor's degree in biology from the Mount, Nzinga Graham '04 taught high school math and science at St. Mary's Academy in Los Angeles. Less than a year later, she was on her way to medical school. Graham received her doctorate of medicine from the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA in 2009 and immediately started working at Kaiser Permanente as a resident physician. She is now a family physician with the Southern California Permanente Medical Group.

She also serves as corresponding secretary for the Association of Black Women Physicians, an organization committed to the improvement of public health and welfare.

Q: Do you have a favorite memory from your time at the Mount?
A: I would say working at the Starbucks near LAX with a fellow Mount student.
Q: Why did you choose to follow your career?
A: I did it to help people while also understanding them. It was also for my love of science, math and the analytical process.
Q: Did you have a mentor or role model while at the Mount?
A: Yes, I had plenty. They were Eric Stemp, Eleanor Siebert, Tonia Symensma, Sister Annette Bower and Helen Boutrous.
Q: Which of your accomplishments are you most proud of?
A: I am most proud of graduating medical school.

Paolo Montenegro '11

Service to the Community

Paolo Montenegro '11 spent his 25th birthday setting up triage centers in areas devastated by Typhoon Haiyan, one of the most destructive storms in history. Last December, Montenegro flew to the Philippines as a volunteer nurse with the National Nurses United union. He was the first nurse from Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center sent to the Philippines to help after the typhoon.

A native Pilipino who still travels to his native country on a yearly basis to visit relatives, Montenegro says he could immediately feel the sense of loss, "that something really big and terrible had happened here." But he was also impressed by the resilience of people who were already rebuilding despite downed power lines, toppled trees and roofless buildings.

He credits the Mount's commitment to service for preparing him for the medical mission. While at the Mount, he served as an orientation leader and a board member of the California Nursing Student's Association. After graduating in 2011 with a bachelor of science in nursing, he landed his first job in the neurotrauma unit at Ronald Reagan, where he now serves in the Intensive Care and Post Anesthesia Care Units. He has returned to the College several times to participate in nursing career panels at both campuses.

Q: Why did you choose nursing?
A: I just wanted to help people out and make a difference in the world somewhere.
Q: How did giving aid to those harmed by the typhoon in the Philippines affect you?
A: That experience changed my life. I never thought I would be able to do something like that. It was caring for those who weren't being cared for at the time. It changed my life in general.
Q: What organizations do you volunteer with today?
A: I volunteer at my local church, St. Finbar in Burbank. I help by conducting health screenings and I make sure the elderly and the sick are keeping up with their medication.
Q: What does being a nurse mean to you?
A: It means being a patient advocate, caring for those who are in need. It's about taking care of everyone, without biases, regardless of their race, religion or nationality.
Q: Is there something you are most passionate about?
A: I am most passionate about my job in general and my duties at the hospital.
Q: Which of your accomplishments are you most proud of?
A: It's knowing that I can make my parents proud by being a graduate from the Mount with my degree, and the fact that I am independent now. ⚜

— Interviews by Alex Hernandez '15

JOIN US

The wonders of ancient Pompeii

Journey through the ages to the ashes of Pompeii on Nov. 1 through a special "Expand Your Mind" program. Begin the day with a champagne brunch inside the Doheny Mansion's Pompeian Room as Jane Crawford, instructor of history and political science, delights you with the history of this ancient Roman city. Then head to the nearby California Science Center for a self-guided tour of "Pompeii: The Exhibition." Tickets for the brunch and exhibition are $40. To make reservations, visit msmcalums.la.edu/expand2014, or contact Jeanne Ruiz '63, director of engagement and donor relations, at 213.477.2512 or at jaruiz@msmc.la.edu.

Music Department fall events

The music department is holding several concerts this fall. The Nov. 2 concert will feature Tesserae, an instrumental ensemble specializing in music from the early 17th century. Music instructor Ian Pritchard is a founding member of this group.

On Nov. 5, instructor Matt Ennis will be joined by student Alexis Fillingames for an evening of classical saxophone music. Then on Dec. 5, the Mount Chorus & Singers will perform carols at their annual Christmas concert.

For more information, contact Therese Fassnacht, chair of the music department, at tfassnacht@msmc.la.edu.

Travel to the top of the world — the Swiss Alps and the Italian Lakes

Next summer, join President Ann McElaney-Johnson and Mount alums to experience the timeless magic of alpine vistas and glacial lakes. From July 5-14, 2015, the Alumnae Association's annual trip will take travelers to the "top of the world" — St. Moritz, Switzerland. At an elevation of 6,089 feet, this pristine destination has beautiful wooden chalets, lush valleys and snow-capped peaks. Spend time exploring Switzerland by rail, cable car and boat before moving on to the southern side of the mountains to enjoy the lovely lakes of Italy — Lake Como, Lake Maggiore and Lake Orta. The group will take the Bernina Express to Tirano, then visit several sites in Milan: the Santa Maria Delle Grazie church, which holds Da Vinci's masterpiece, "The Last Supper;" the museum at the La Scala opera house; and the opulent Duomo cathedral. Finally, the group will cruise Lake Como, visit the Bellagio resort located on its shore, and explore the Borromean Islands on Lake Maggiore.

These are just a few of the highlights. For a day-by-day look at the itinerary, visit http://mtsmar.ahitravel.com/promolisting.aspx. This program is $3,295 if booked before Dec. 2, 2014. Plane fare is not included. For more information, contact Jeanne Ruiz '63, director of engagement and donor relations, at 213.477.2512 or at jaruiz@msmc.la.edu.

upcoming events

Oct. 11	Homecoming 2014 (Chalon Campus)
Oct. 12	White Mass: Celebrating Healthcare Professionals (Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, Los Angeles)
Oct. 25	Mount Orchestra Fall Concert (Chalon Campus)
Nov. 11	Filmfest: A Night of Cinema and Conversation (Chalon Campus)
Dec. 5	Mount Chorus & Singers Carol Concert (Chalon Campus)
Dec. 7	Christmas Magic at the Mansion (Doheny Campus)
March 19	Fourth annual release of the Report on the Status of Women and Girls in California® (Doheny Campus)

This calendar represents only some of the events at Mount St. Mary's College. For up-to-date listings, visit msmc.la.edu. For alum events, visit msmcalums.la.edu.

Left, MSMC President Sister Marie de Lourdes Le May, shown here in 1943, was chair of the English Department before and after her tenure as Mount president. Her students won nearly a hundred prizes in creative writing between 1932 and 1956. Above, the staff of the Mount's quarterly literary journal Westwords works on the next issue during the spring semester of 1961.

A way with words

The very first Mount publication, Inter-Nos, ran this little poem called "School Spirit" in 1927:

Pompoms waving in the air.
Excited faces everywhere — School Spirit.
That girl in the classroom there,
Performing her duties with diligent care — School Spirit.
Wafted thoughts in vocal prayer
Reciting the office of Mary so fair — School Spirit.

It's not much, but it marks the opening of the Mount's long and distinguished legacy in creative writing.

Within just a few years of this little verse, written by an anonymous student, the Mount was making its mark on California's college literary scene. Students had started winning prizes in literary competitions and were being published in respected journals. In 1937, the Mount became the first Catholic college invited to edit and publish First the Blade, the annual anthology of poetry sponsored by the California Intercollegiate Fellowship of Creative Arts, who held their annual conference at the College that year. The book was produced and edited by the Mount's literary society, the Parnassians, founded in 1933.

From the earliest days the English faculty brimmed with talented professors like Sisters Dolorosa Mannix, Laurentia Digges, Ste. Helene Guthrie and Mary Patricia Sexton. Among the sisters' friends were some of the notable Catholic writers of the day, and making their way to campus were such literary heavyweights as California Poet Laureate John Steven McGroarty, playwright and screenwriter Emmet Lavery, and novelists and essayists Frank Spearman and Evelyn Waugh.

But one professor above all others seems to have inspired the Mount writers to excellence: Sister Marie de Lourdes Le May, a gifted poet in her own right who joined the English faculty in 1932 after completing her doctorate, and served as president of the College from 1943 to 1949. Early Rain, the anthology of Mount writing she edited upon her retirement from teaching, lists nearly a hundred prizes for creative writing won by her students between 1932 and 1956.

The original typewritten Inter-Nos (1927-1959) grew to become a real quarterly journal in the 1930s, publishing for nearly 30 years the creative writing, letters and nonfiction of students, alumnae and faculty. Next came Westwords (1959-1979), a showcase for creative writing and graphic arts. Mount Voices debuted in 1996 for a 10-year run, and Audemus appeared from 2008 to 2010. Today, the Mount's literary journal of record is the Dry River Review. All of the archived journals, newsletters and anthologies between 1927 and 2010 have been fully digitized and can be read online or downloaded. Please contact the College Archives. ⚜

— Victoria McCargar, College archivist

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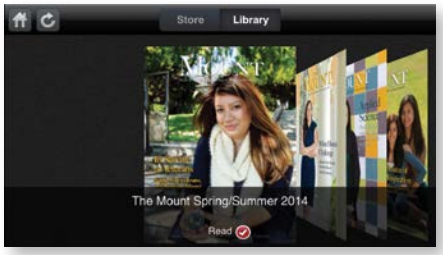

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